



U.S. Department of Justice

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December 17, 2004

EVENT: SENTENCING

DEFENDANT: RAYMOND CONTESTI, 69 of Clinton Township, Michigan

FORMER SUPERINTENDENT OF CLINTONDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

SENTENCED TO 23 MONTHS FOR HIS ROLE IN SCHOOL SCANDAL

Raymond Michael Contesti, age 69, a resident of Clinton Township, Michigan, was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge Patrick J. Duggan to twenty-three months imprisonment announced United States Attorney Craig S. Morford. Mr. Morford was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Sandra L. Carter, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service.

Mr. Contesti had previously pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit racketeering between 1990 and 2002 in Macomb County. In addition, the court ordered and Mr. Contesti paid \$300,000.00 in restitution at the time of sentencing. The restitution will be paid to the two victims of Mr. Contesti's crimes, the Clintondale Community Schools and the East Detroit Public Schools. Upon agreement of the victims, \$200,000 will go to the Clintondale Schools and \$100,000 to the East Detroit Public Schools.

Assistant United States Attorney John Engstrom, who prosecuted the case, stated that "after indictment, but prior to trial, Mr. Contesti began cooperating with the investigation. His cooperation and testimony assisted the government in assuring the conviction of John Gardiner and Ronald Lupo and publically exposed an illegal scheme to divert school bond proceeds to his and Mr. Lupo's personal use and the sentence imposed reflects his cooperation. Without cooperation, Mr. Contesti faced a sentence of between 41 and 51 months under the United States Sentencing Guidelines."

Mr. Morford commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service for its investigation of this case which led to the successful prosecution of Mr. Contesti.